

REMARKS

Claims 20-23 and 26-33 are pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

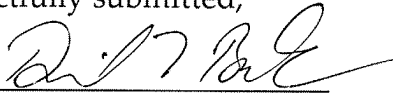
Claims 20, 22, 26, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,775,837 ("Makita"). Makita was filed on November 21, 2000. Therefore, for 102(e) purposes, the effective filing date is November 21, 2000. The present application claims priority to Japanese Application No. 11-345075 filed December 3, 1999. Acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document for this application was indicated in the Office Action mailed September 27, 2004. Thus, the priority date for this application is at least December 3, 1999. Therefore, Makita, having a 102(e) date of November 21, 2000, is not prior art with respect to this application. Applicant is submitting herewith a translation of the priority document supporting entitlement to the December 3, 1999 priority date. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is improper and should be removed by the Examiner.

Claims 21, 23, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,044,057 ("Park") in view Makita. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As discussed above, Makita is not prior art with respect to this application. Further, Park does not teach every element of the claims. (Office Action, page 5). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be removed by the Examiner.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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